



AWQA: Agriculture Water Quality Alliance

Protecting the waters and watersheds of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

www.awqa.org

On-the-Ground Management Practices



Local assistance agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Resource Conservation Districts provide technical assistance to farmers for designing and implementing management practices. These management practices help reduce the amount of sediments, pesticides and nutrients running off the farm fields.

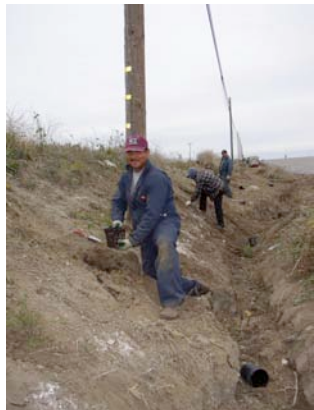


Research

UCCE conducts in-field studies to determine the effectiveness of management practices, improve irrigation and nutrient efficiency to maximize production and analyses the costs and benefits of those practices.



Watershed Working Groups



The Central Coast Agriculture Water Quality Coalition has established 23 Watershed Working Groups, comprised of over 400 farmers and ranchers, in watershed areas with known water quality concerns. The corner stone of this voluntary program is the willing participation of farmers to identify water quality management concerns on their properties, and their ability to implement on-the-ground management practices.



Education

Although extensive technical information exists on agricultural techniques and tools to improve water quality, this information is not always readily available or presented in a format appropriate for use by farmers and ranchers. Workshops, short courses, tours and many other forms of education are developed and delivered to farmers each year.

